

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Page 1, after line 3, please insert as follows:

**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

Page 2, after line <sup>7</sup>~~6~~, please insert as follows:

**SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

Page 2, please amend the paragraph beginning at line 8 to read as follows:

In WO-A-96/237757~~96/23757~~ which is directed to the preparation of iridium carboxylates and their use in inter alia carbonylation reactions, the use of promoters not being mentioned, it is stated in contrast to WO-A-95/314326 that alkaline or alkaline earth ions are preferably eliminated, since their presence may have a harmful influence on the kinetics and selectivity of subsequent reactions in which the iridium carboxylate will e used as a catalyst.

Page 11, after line 21, please insert as follows:

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**